

SDM Advanced Training

Reunification Reassessment

Overview of workshop

How do you explain, at the outset of services, what information will be considered in making the next court recommendation? How do you provide frequent and candid feedback on case plan progress without developing a deficit-based relationship? How do you maintain continuity across visits, rather than narrowly addressing the crisis of the month? This workshop explores ways to use the reunification reassessment “throughout the life of a case”. Participants will be introduced to techniques addressing these issues, then provided with an opportunity to practice.

Objectives:

- Overview of the Reunification Reassessment tool, how to use it and when.
- Gain an understanding of how to use the assessment tool and the language of SDM when working with families.
- Using SDM to clarify expectation with families and to monitor progress.
- How to use the Reunification Reassessment tool to support recommendations in court.

Outline of the class:

- Overview of the Reunification Reassessment tool
- Benefits, policy and implementation
- Philosophy behind how tool fits into practice
 - Talking to parents about reunification from day one
 - Safety, risk, visitation and time as essential elements of the assessment
 - Discussing progress and expectations
 - How to talk with parents about risk
 - Talking to parents about safety and assessing safety
 - Assessing visitation
- Using the elements of the reunification reassessment to explain to parents how we determine reunification in the first visits
 - Role play- talking to parents about risk, safety, visitation and time
- Using the reunification reassessment to work with families and explain our decision making process at 5 months.
- Using the Reunification Reassessment to inform the court report
- Reassessing with the family for continued services

Transfer of Learning

Before the class:

1. Ask the staff to review when they use the Reunification Reassessment tool, when do they start thinking about it? Ask them how they explain to a family how we make the decision to return a child. Discuss what might make this better.

2. Review a case with a Reunification Reassessment tool and see how accurate the scoring was and if the final decision fit the score or if the staff gave a rationale for their decision. Share what you learned before the training and ask the staff to see if they can get clarity on the issues in the class.
3. Ask the staff before the training to review one tool they have done and think of what worked and what did not work.
4. Review with the staff what they do now to assess whether a family has meet the objectives in a case. Ask them for specific examples.
5. Discuss how they assess visitation? How do they relate it to the objectives in the case plan?

After the class:

1. Ask the staff what was the one thing that stood out in the class. Did they hear a practice they are not doing that they would like to do? Make a plan to do that.
2. If there is an area that the staff feels the unit does not know, ask them to prepare to teach the unit or tell the unit at the next unit meeting.
3. Have them bring in a case that is close to review and discuss how they would score visitation and R3 (progress on the case plan). What is their thinking? What is the parent's behavior?
4. Have the worker bring in a new case. Ask them how they can use the Reunification Reassessment tool to explain how decision are made and what the expectations are.
5. Chose a case were the family is being reunified. Go over the safety plan in the Reunification Reassessment tool and the explanation of how the initial safety threats were resolved.
6. Discuss how they might use the Reunification Reassessment tool in a family meeting, not the actual tool but the thinking and structure of the tool.